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Letter dated 6 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter addressed to you by Vojislav Koštunica, President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, relative to the recent signing of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia-UNMIK joint document regarding the implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and the elections in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, to be held on 17 November 2001 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dejan **Šahović**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 6 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

6 November 2001

As you are aware, after several days of negotiations the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia-UNMIK Joint Document was signed yesterday. This is a very important document, which, for the first time, considers and defines concrete issues and cooperation between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and UNMIK, in order to secure consistent and comprehensive implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). Having also in mind the adoption of the document, the Governments of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Serbia called upon the Kosovo Serbs to take part in the upcoming elections on 17 November 2001, believing that it is in their best interest.

I would like to thank you for your personal engagement and efforts you exerted in order to ensure that the Joint Document would be harmonized and signed. Without your assistance and understanding, it was hardly possible to reach agreement on provisions related to the judiciary and police in the areas where Serbs are a majority. On the other hand, without those two provisions, the document would not be complete, and I am afraid not concrete enough either.

I am convinced that the implementation of this document, together with the establishment of the high-ranking working group, will ensure better communication and open institutional cooperation between UNMIK, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Serbia in order to resolve accumulated problems in Kosovo and Metohija in compliance with resolution 1244 (1999) and the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

As we have already emphasized, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia believes that it is of the utmost importance that the forthcoming election be organized in a fair and democratic atmosphere, and that it should contribute to the improvement and stabilization of the situation on the ground. Without preserving a multi-ethnic Kosovo and Metohija, we can hardly talk about the fulfilment of the goals of resolution 1244 (1999). Therefore, we expect representatives of the international community, UNMIK and KFOR in particular, to intensify their efforts to improve the difficult situation in Kosovo and to give a chance to members of all communities in Kosovo and Metohija, especially non-Albanians, to live a normal life in dignity.

Fully aware of its responsibility and committed to resolving all problems, including the most difficult ones, in a peaceful and democratic manner, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has once again demonstrated its full readiness to make its own contribution to overcoming the problems in Kosovo and Metohija in a constructive and open way, and in collaboration with the international community. After all, our experience in the south of Serbia has proved that this is the only proper way and the only genuine chance of eliminating the danger of extremism and terrorism. Accordingly, we expect such a mutual relationship to deepen after 17 November as well, when direct partnership in resolving open issues will be secured through the activities of the high-ranking working group, the establishment of which is provided by the Joint Document. We do hope that members of the group will be given a number of opportunities to discuss issues and problems other than those directly mentioned in the Joint Document. Without a Federal Republic of

Yugoslavia-UNMIK dialogue, it will be impossible to make the much desired progress in the normalization of the situation in Kosovo and Metohija. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is ready for dialogue, and I believe that the United Nations and your Special Representative will react positively. Finally, it is clear that the real job is ahead of us after the note of 17 November. It is certain that it will be difficult, nearly painstaking. I am confident, however, that we and the international community alike are obliged to do everything for this job to bear fruit.

I would like to thank you again for the efforts you invested for the negotiations to come to a successful end and for the Joint Document to be signed, and to reiterate that it would be a genuine pleasure indeed to be your host in the foreseeable future.

(*Signed*) Vojislav **Koštunica**